

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawing includes changes to FIG. 1. This sheet, which includes FIG. 1, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 3-9 are amended, Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 10-21 are added by the present amendment.

Amendments to the claims and new claims find support in the application as originally filed at least at page 76, last paragraph to page 79, line 13. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Title was objected to; the drawings were objected to; Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,747,755 to Coste et al. (herein "Coste"); and Claims 3, 5, 7, and 8 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Initially, Applicants and Applicants' representatives gratefully acknowledge the courtesy of a personal interview with Examiner Salata on November 21, 2008. During the interview, rejections in the outstanding Office Action and differences between the claimed invention and the disclosures of the references cited in the Office Action were discussed. Comments and claim amendments discussed during the interview are reiterated below.

Also, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3, 5, 7, and 8. Accordingly, Claims 3 and 7 are rewritten in independent form and Claim 9 is amended to recite features similar to those of allowable Claim 7, to be in condition for allowance as suggested in the Office Action.

Regarding the objection to the specification, the Title is amended as discussed during the interview. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Figure 1 is amended as discussed during the interview to include text labels for certain rectangular boxes. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings also be withdrawn.

In addition, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Coste, with respect to amended independent Claims 1 and 9.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an elevator apparatus that includes, in part, a main sensor unit configured to generate a main detection signal corresponding to a movement amount of a car, a control device configured to obtain car information including at least one of car position information and car speed information based on the main detection signal, and an auxiliary sensor unit configured to generate an auxiliary detection signal upon detecting an arrival of the car at a preset reference position within a hoistway. The control device is further configured to make a correction to the car information based on the auxiliary detection signal, determine a threshold speed for the car, and monitor the car speed information in the car information to determine whether the car has reached the threshold speed.

As discussed during the interview, Coste fails to teach or suggest each of the features of amended Claim 1. For example, Coste fails to teach or suggest determining a threshold speed for the car or monitoring car speed information and car information to determine whether a car has reached the threshold speed, where the car speed information is included in car information obtained by a control device based on a main detection signal generated by a main sensor unit.

As discussed during the interview, Coste describes an elevator car position compensation arrangement in which a “slip and stretch” characteristic of a hoistway rope is an error that may be compensated for by a compensation position reference function.¹ In particular, Coste indicates that “[w]hen the elevator system is under normal automatic positioning and reference position point is detected in the hoistway, the encoder pulse count is aligned to be the value in the position reference table and the difference is erased.”² In other words, Coste indicates that a detection of a reference position point is used to align a current position reference of the car in the hoistway, and Coste is silent regarding determining a speed or a speed threshold, and Coste is silent regarding determining when the car has reached such a threshold speed. Accordingly, as discussed during the interview, Coste fails to teach or suggest “the control device is further configured to make a correction to the car information based on the auxiliary detection signal, determine a threshold speed for the car, and monitor the car speed information and the car information to determine whether the car has reached that threshold speed,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 3, 7, and 9, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

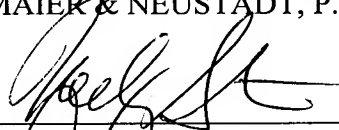
¹ Coste at column 3, lines 7-11 and column 4, line 59 to column 5, line 22.

² Coste at column 4, lines 26-29.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Zachary S. Stern
Registration No. 54,719